

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

- Mayor Pro-Tem Rotwein called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Council members in attendance: West, Baker, Rotwein. ***Ladwig & Miller were absent.***
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Dan Berman, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion (West/Baker) to approve the agenda as written. Passed 3-0.*

**IV. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:**

**Dorothy Cox** – Trinidad

Regarding Ocean Avenue encroachment issue, I hope and encourage someone will contact my neighbor Victoria soon. I understand construction equipment is in town working on the Lighthouse project and in case it can be used to do work on Ocean Avenue for a reduced cost, she should be notified immediately.

**Ben Morehead** – Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

The Land Trust is in contract with Green Diamond to secure an easement to Strawberry Rock. Requested a letter of support from the City. Presented at HCAOG meeting last week, and the more the City shows support for the Land Trust at those meetings, the more likely the Land Trust will be to win funding for special projects. Finally, please consider giving the Land Trust a permanent seat on the Trails committee, and consider the Land Trust a recipient for Occupancy Tax kick-back funding.

**V. CONSENT AGENDA – No consent items.**

**VI. DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA**

**1. Budget Goals & Priorities Workshop**

City Manager Berman explained that this is a workshop style discussion of goals and priorities for the City in the coming year. The discussion will provide important information for staff as we develop the 2017-18 Budget and Work Plan.

Councilmembers and the public are encouraged to come to the meeting ready to discuss and present a few broader goals or focus areas they want to see the City work on or work towards in the coming year, as well as specific project ideas – hopefully tied into broader goals.

To provide a context to frame the discussion, Berman outlined some major projects that the City has been grinding away on for many years and would like to be front-burned again:

1. General Plan Update
2. STR Ordinance Implementation
3. OWTS Permit Program
4. Capital Asset Improvement Plan

The big, upcoming grant projects are the OPC/LID project, Van Wycke Trail reconstruction, and the Stormwater Phase II.

Council clarification/questions:

**Rotwein:** The bigger picture items in my mind are Public Safety, Administration, and Infrastructure.

**West:** How long does each OWTS permit take to issue, and will the capital improvement plan be developed by staff, or contract staff? Berman explained that OWTS permits could range from an hour to many hours to issue, depending on the complexity, history, and status of the system. The capital improvement plan would be authored by the City Engineer, but support work will be provided by full-time staff.

**Baker:** The OWTS Permit Program is a priority, why is it taking so long? The STR Permit process is substandard and needs to be held to higher municipal standards. Questioned whether street signage and striping is considered a capital improvement.

**Rotwien:** Read priorities submitted as public record from 2 residents; 1) Maintain healthy reserve, 2) Consultant v. Staff Planner, 3) STR Issues, 4) Review administrative costs. Also read Mayor Miller's top 3 priorities as submitted prior to the meeting; 1) public employee salary review, 2) additional support staff, and 3) increased Sheriff hours.

**West:** Priorities include OWTS Implementation, trail rehabilitation, enforcement of existing ordinances.

Public comment included:

**Patti Fleschner – Trinidad**

Suggested that if the Van Wycke Trail project ends up under budget then perhaps unused funds could be applied to the Lighthouse stabilization project. Saving the Lighthouse and Edwards Street bluff is the priority.

**Dorothy Cox – Trinidad**

Priorities; Enforce ordinances and public safety and STR enforcement.

**John Hedrick – Trinidad**

Priorities; OWTS Implementation, enforce ordinances, and Scenic Drive safety. Threatened the Council that if they don't take action he will go to the press ☺

**Ben Morehead – Trinidad Coastal Land Trust**

I support everyone's comments so far. Trails and Scenic Drive are good priorities that shouldn't fall off the list. Reminded the City that grant writing almost always pays for itself, and cited recent grant awards in Blue Lake and Arcata for recreation and infrastructure. Networking with other agencies to get projects done should also be used to help the city.

Council comments included:

**Rotwein:** Priorities are Public Safety, Enforcement, and OWTS/Water quality programs.

**Baker:** Are the city's reserves big enough? Also, we need to keep in mind that for every regulation passed, we need to be prepared to have the staff to enforce it. Berman explained that Trinidad has a healthy reserve related to its general fund budget, but relative to the cost of a catastrophic construction repair, it's not as impressive.

**West:** Additional priorities are the Lighthouse, working together with agencies, resolving the land transfer, resolve litigation, and get extra help to complete the big projects.

**Rotwein:** In summary, the **ongoing priorities** are; land transfer, litigation, save the lighthouse, and continuing partnerships.

The **project budget priorities** are:

- Refine enforcement systems; OWTS, STR Ordinance, View Protection, etc.
- OWTS project implementation
- Streets and Roads
- Trail improvements
- Increase Law Enforcement staffing

**City Manager Berman** reminded the Council of the pendulum shift that occurred when the Council changed their form of government in 2007, and to be careful not to overload the small staff. The alternative would be to involve community volunteers to assist the Council on various projects/committees. He also explained the difference between criminal enforcement and code enforcement, and how important it is to differentiate the two and consider discussing this with the Sheriff during upcoming contract negotiations.

**Baker:** We need to cultivate a culture of trust with the community.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting ended at 7:30pm.

**Submitted by:**

**Approved by:**

---

**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

---

**Dwight Miller**  
Mayor